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Achim Puettnr

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KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 10, 11, 13-15, 17 – 19, 21 – 23, 25 - 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Evans et al. (US 5,971,806).

Regarding claim 10, Evans et al., fig. 1-6, discloses a removable electrical plug-in connection comprising a connector 10 and a mating connector (not shown), the mating connector including a contact element 50 having at least one contact area 51 which is connectable at least in part to the connector, wherein the connector includes at least one clamping element 20, 30 which grips at least in part around the contact element 23, 33 in its contact position, and this clamping element presses at least a part of the contact element against the contact area 25, 35 for establishing the electrical plug-in connection, the clamping element configured to fix the at least a part of the contact element to the contact area.

Regarding claim 11, Evans et al. discloses the clamping element is positioned displaceably within the connector and latches in its contact position.

Regarding claim 13, Evans et al. discloses the clamping element has latching means with which the contact element latches together.

Regarding claims 14, 15 and 17, Evans et al. discloses the clamping element is designed in such a way that the contact element is fixed in its longitudinal extension on at least one side of the contact element at least in part in the contact area.

Regarding claims 18, 19 and 21, Evans et al. discloses the contact element is pressed against the contact area of the contact element when the connector, made up of a contact element, a contact carrier and a clamping element, is closed.

Regarding claims 22, 23, 25 and 26, Evans et al. discloses the contact element has a sleeve (not labeled) at least in the contact area for compensating different diameters of contact elements.

Regarding claim 27, Evans et al. discloses the sleeve has at least one contact point on its outer surface which is at a distance from the diameter of the sleeve which comes into contact with the contact area 51 of the contact element 50.

Regarding claim 28, Evans et al. discloses the sleeve can be plugged directly onto the end of a cable.

Regarding claim 29, Evans et al. discloses the a removable electrical plug-in connection comprising: a connector 10 including a first contact element 23, 33 and a clamping element 20, 30, the clamping element having an open position and a closed position; and a mating connector (not shown) including a second contact element 50, wherein the first contact element is movable with respect to the second contact element in a contact area when the clamping element is in the open position, and the clamping element, when in the closed position, fixes the first contact element with

respect to the second contact element in the contact area by pressing the first contact element and the second contact element together.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on January 14, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues that "Evans et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, a clamping element that is configured to fix at least a part of a contact element to a contact area of a contact element." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Functionally similar connection mechanism clearly shown in Evans's fig. 1, and disclosed in column 4, lines 38 – 50.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VLADIMIR IMAS whose telephone number is (571)272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/V. I./
Examiner, Art Unit 2839
4/25/2008

/T C Patel/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2839